

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW
Exception Criteria Review Checklist

Proposed Action: Have the Northwest Youth Corps perform routine maintenance items on the Clay Creek Trail and the Whittaker Creek Old Growth National Recreation Trail within the Siuslaw Resource Area.

Review the proposed action against each of the 10 criteria listed below. If the project meets one or more of the criteria, it is an exception from categorical exclusion and MUST be analyzed in an EA or EIS. To qualify as a Categorical Exclusion the proposed action may not meet any of the criteria. If the criterion does not apply, indicate "Not Applicable." Any mitigation measures (such as contract stipulations or terms and conditions on permits) necessary to ensure that the proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion should be identified at the bottom of the page.

Exception Criteria		Comments
1.	Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety	* None
2.	Have adverse effects on unique resources (i.e., parks, recreation, refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, wetlands, flood plains, etc.)	* None
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects	* None
4.	Have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks	* None
5.	Establish a precedent that could result in significant impacts	* None
6.	Be directly related to other actions having cumulatively significant effects	* None
7.	Have adverse effects on cultural or historical resources	* None
8.	Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed as threatened or endangered or have adverse effect on designated critical habitat for these species.	Botany - Fish - Wildlife -
9.	Require compliance with E.O. 11988 (flood plain management), E.O. 11990 (protection of wetlands), or the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act	* None
10.	Threaten to violate Federal, State, Local or Native American law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment	* None
Mitigation measures needed to qualify as CE: Work will be done during the times noted on page 2. If work should be done during August 6 through September 15, it will "not likely to adversely affect" wildlife. In addition, during this time period (Aug. 6 – Sept. 15), work will begin 2 hours after sunrise and end 2 hours before sunset. <i>Cimicifuga elata</i> (Tall bugbane) plant sites, located next to the Whittaker Creek NRT, and Clay Creek Trail will be identified for workers to avoid.		

Reviewed By: Gary Hoppe
Gary Hoppe, Environmental Coordinator

Date: 1/23/03

Above mitigation measures have been adopted and will be implemented.

Field Manager: Steven Calish

Date: 1/24/03

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE BLM DISTRICT
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

Clay Creek and Whittaker Creek Trail Maintenance

Background

These trails were constructed in the early 1990s and have had little maintenance over the years. Hikers are creating shortcuts on switchbacks, vegetation is growing over the pathway, the treadway is slumping in many locations, and blow down needs to be removed in order to maintain these trails to BLM standards.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would shore up slumping banks, add steps where needed, build barricades to discourage hiker created shortcuts, flatten the treadway where needed, remove blow down and rootwads within the trail pathway, repair slides and washouts, and remove vegetation overgrowing the trail. Work is to begin after January 27, 2003 and proceed through February 28, 2003. It is expected that work can be completed within this timeframe. If not, work involving loud noise equipment such as chainsaws and generators will not be allowed to continue until August 6 through September 15, 2003, with the following seasonal restriction: no work activity until 2 hours after sunrise and work activity must stop 2 hours before sunset between the dates of April 1, 2003 through September 15, 2003. These restrictions are due to murrelet disturbance issues. Actions not creating noise above normal ambient levels can continue after the March 1 date. Workers removing vegetation along both trails will be alerted to *Cimicifuga elata* (Tall bugbane) sites to avoid disturbance to this plant.

Decision

It is my decision to approve the Proposed Action to permit restoration and maintenance of the Clay Creek Trail and the Whittaker Creek Old Growth National Recreation Trail.

Rationale

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion as described in the National Environmental Policy Act Handbook H-1790, Appendixes, Part A - Departmental Categorical Exclusions (516 DM 2, Appendix 1), number 1.7 which states, "Routine and continuing government business, including such things as . . . maintenance and replacement activities having limited context and intensity, e.g., limited size and magnitude or short term effects" and, 516 DM 6, Appendix 5, Section H. Other (10) which states, "Removal of structures and materials of nonhistorical value . . . when little or no surface disturbance is involved." The Proposed Action does not meet any of the exception criteria and therefore an Environmental Assessment (EA) is not necessary.

Prepared by: Sandra Miles
Recreation Planner

Date: 1/23/03

Approved by: Steven Calish
Field Manager, Siuslaw R. A.

Date: 1/24/03